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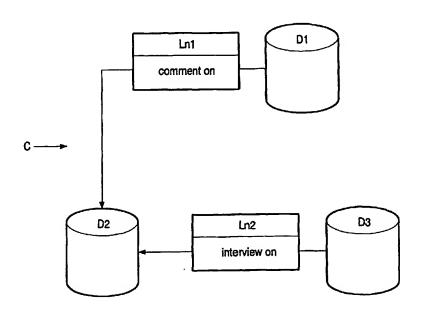
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS



(57) Abstract: A system and a method for processing electronic documents are described in which an input document D1 and reference data D2 are examined whether there is a content-based relation between the input document D1 and the reference data D2. For the case of a content-based relation, a type of linkage is selected from a number of predefined types of linkages in accordance with the type of content-based relation and a respective linkage between the documents is established. The invention makes it possible for the type of relation between two documents to be recognized automatically. For example, a document flow can be segmented in suitable manner and classified and also stored in an appropriately interlinked manner.



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### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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Category °	Citation of document, with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Y	WO 01/97070 A (ARTESIA TECHNOLOGIES INC) 20 December 2001 (2001-12-20) page 4, line 3 - line 8; figures 2,4 page 4, line 17 - line 27; figure 3 page 5, line 35 - page 6, line 3 -/	1-12

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family members are listed in annex.
Special categories of cited documents:      A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance      E' earlier document but published on or after the international filing date      L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)      O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means      P' document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	<ul> <li>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</li> <li>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</li> <li>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</li> <li>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</li> </ul>
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11 August 1998 (1998-08-11) column 3, line 26 - line 47; figure 3 column 4, line 31 - column 5, line 22 column 6, line 22 - line 23 column 6, line 52 - column 7, line 15; figures 4,5  A US 6 184 885 B1 (DESTEFANO GEORGE FRANCIS) 6 February 2001 (2001-02-06) column 7, line 21 - line 32; figure 3 column 8, line 4 - line 51	Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages		Relevant to claim No.
6 February 2001 (2001-02-06) column 7, line 21 - line 32; figure 3 column 8, line 4 - line 51	<b>A</b>	11 August 1998 (1998-08-11) column 3, line 26 - line 47; figure 3 column 4, line 31 - column 5, line 22 column 6, line 22 - line 23 column 6, line 52 - column 7, line 15;		1,11,12
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